



*Christ is Risen !  
Easter Sunday 2021*



*St. Joseph's Parish  
North Brookfield, MA*

## PARISH STAFF

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**SATURDAY Apr. 3, 2021 (Easter Vigil)**  
*(no 8:30am Mass at St. Josephs)*  
*(no 4:00pm Mass)*

**7:00 PM Mass at St. John's****SUNDAY Apr. 4, 2021 (Easter Sunday)**

8:30 AM

**William Dykes**

req. by Christy Riendeau

**MONDAY Apr. 5, 2021**

8:30 AM

**John W. Shields**

req. by Catholic Association of Foresters

**TUESDAY Apr. 6, 2021**

8:30 AM

**Marianne Abysalh**

req. by her husband, Charles

**WEDNESDAY Apr. 7, 2021***No Mass at St. Joseph's or St. John's Churches**Masses on Wednesday at nearby parishes.**8:00 AM—Mary Queen of the Rosary, Spencer**8:00 AM—Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, West Brookfield***THURS-FRI Apr. 8-9, 2021**

8:30 AM

Masses at St. John's, East Brookfield

**SATURDAY Apr. 10, 2021**

8:30 AM

**Sue Angela Healy**

req. by Chris &amp; Ted Mullens

**SUNDAY Apr. 11, 2021 (Divine Mercy Sunday)**

8:30 AM

**For the health of Fr. Joseph Nally**

req. by the parish

**From the Desk of Fr. Don**

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Each time we celebrate Easter, we recall Christ's victory over sin and death. It is an occasion to renew our faith and to strengthen our hope in our lives.

It is no wonder that we want to experience that renewal, given this past year of the pandemic. Despite the sacrifices, suffering, and loss, we can still look to our God for that fortitude and strength that is possible in faith and in life itself. God is always present and will assist us in every way. God has blessed us with the company of one another to get through all adversities. This renewed life in Christ gives us the encouragement to move forward in this journey of faith.

In addition, you have been so supportive during this past year. Despite the limits that the coronavirus has imposed, even with limited attendance, all of you have maintained your financial support. This allows us to keep our churches going! For that, we are most grateful.

On behalf of Fr. Bill and myself, with that of Fr. Rich, and Fr. George, our assisting priests, we wish you the peace and joy of the risen Lord, and the encouragement that our God offers. These sentiments are extended to your family, friends, and colleagues. May this Easter season be one of love, hope, and fulfillment.

May God's blessings and love be with you always.

*Fr. Don***Readings for the week of April 4, 2021**

Sunday:	Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 [24]/Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8/Jn 20:1-9 or Mk 16:1-7 or Lk 24:13-35
Monday:	Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 [1]/Mt 28:8-15
Tuesday:	Acts 2:36-41/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 225b/Jn 20:11-18
Wednesday:	Acts 3:1-10/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9 [3b]/Lk 24:13-35
Thursday:	Acts 3:11-26/Ps 8:2, 5, 6-7, 8-9 [2ab]/Lk 24:35-48
Friday:	Acts 4:1-12/Ps 118:1-2, 4, 22-24, 25-27 [22]/Jn 21:1-14
Saturday:	Acts 4:13-21/Ps 118:1, 14-15, 16-18, 19-21 [21a]/Mk 16:9-15
Sunday:	Acts 4:32-35/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 [1]/1 Jn 5:1-6/Jn 20:19-





We have begun the 2021 *Partners in Charity Appeal*. Thank you to those who have who gave for the first time. Your gift will help us in reaching our parish goal.

We encourage you to prayerfully consider making a pledge or gift at this time. Please return your pledge or gift to the church office or in the collection basket. Visit [partners-charity.net](http://partners-charity.net) and you can make your donation securely online and note your parish so that it is counted towards our target.

**Texting - another way to contribute to this year's appeal.**

As you may know, this appeal is a lifeline for more than two dozen agencies and ministries which provide charitable, pastoral and educational services that complement what we can provide at the parish. We help those in need, regardless of race, creed or circumstance, in order to find hope. Please consider make a pledge or gift to this year's Appeal. You can even make your gift from a Smartphone by texting DONATE to 84576 ! Thank you!

**The Spark of Divine Love**

Who are you? This question was most assuredly asked of Jesus on the day of resurrection and it is a question asked of each of us. Our identities can be described in so many ways. We can start with our gifts and our talents, expertise and unique personality expressions. We can describe things we like and things we prefer to set aside. As descriptive and captivating as these can be, none come close to our essence, our real and true self. While accurate in their own right, the self who lives and interacts with the world is the self we want others to see, the one we project. But there is much more to us just as there is much more to Jesus. Within each one of us is a spark of Divine Love where creature and Creator meet, and we are known uniquely by the name God whispers to us. It is not the earthly name that was given to us but the one that flows from Divine Power and claims us as one who is special and chosen in God's eyes. This is the self that will rise one day with the eternal Christ of God and live eternally as God provides. This is the self that when free from all superficial constraints layered upon it in this life can discover and know freedom in a way never possible before. This is love lifting us up and transforming us into who we really are, not who we want or need ourselves to be. Who are you? A special, unique child of God who has been fashioned in God's image, sustained by the power of God's love and kept eternally with the Blessed Trinity in heaven. Get to know this deeper, truer self as it is who you really are.

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Apr. 10-11	Lectors	Altar Servers	Eucharistic Ministers
Sat. 4:00 PM	Ted Mullens	Larry Walter	Carole Ryback
Sun. 8:30 AM	Rose Benvenuti	Sam Losurdo	Maureen Caramiello



**Weekend Collections**  
Mar. 20-21

Sat/Sun	\$ 1,816.00
Renovations	\$ 18.00
Fuel	\$ 70.00
Donation	\$ 40.00
Easter Flowers	\$ 60.00

*Thank you for your support!*

**Easter Sunday**

Alleluia! The exclamation rings out across the land, and we who are disciples of Jesus Christ pause to reflect on the reality that he rose from the grave and, in turn, conquered death. In today's colleges and universities, in pulpits of every denomination, and in books and journals, there are those who say it is unimportant whether or not he really rose from the dead. They say that the facts do not impact the moral of the story. Of course, two thousand years of Christianity give evidence that they are incorrect. What the faithful of many generations have experienced and given testimony to is not something built on an idea. It is not a philosophy or a self-help psychology.

The church is a direct result of real events in the course of human history. Without those real events, we simply follow a man who showed us a different way to live. Instead, we follow a God who emptied himself into a human form, suffered the pain of torture and death at the hands of those he had created, and then shattered the chains of death so that we in our human form may follow suit. Today, humanity is redeemed. It is time to face the facts!

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*May Easter blessings be yours !*



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